NOTE VI.

ARSES BATANTAE ET A. ARUENSIS.

A description of two apparently overlooked species of Flycatchers, of the genus *Arses*. By R. Bowdler Sharpe, F. L. S., F. Z. S. etc. Senior assistant, Department of Zoology, British Museum.

If it were a rule in Ornithology that species could only be described from the male birds, it is quite certain that some very different birds would be unchronicled. It often happens that two allied species are quite distinct as regards the males, and yet the females and young are indistinguishable one from the other. Cases in which the males are alike and the respective females quite different, are far rarer in ornithology, and yet a very positive case occurs in the genus *Edoliisoma* among the *Campophagidae* and another instance may apparently be found in the genus *Arses* among the Flycatchers. In fact the species usually called *Arses telescophthalmus* from New Guinea has been made to include two other species which seem quite different, and which we propose to found upon the female plumage alone.

Arses batantae, sp. n.

♀ maculâ anteoculari albâ: pileo semper cinereo: dorso aurantiaco, alis dorso concoloribus, secondariis intimis omnino aurantiacis, medialiter haud brunneis, vel saturatioribus: uropygio et supracaudalibus dorso concoloribus: caudâ aurantiaco-castanea, haud ad apicem brunnescente.

Hab. in insulis papuanis 'Batanta' 'Waigiou' dictis.

The male, as well as the female, is larger than *A. telescophthalmus*, and the eye-wattle in the male bird appears to have been yellow during life.

Arses aruensis, sp. n.

♀ ad. maculâ anteoculari aurantiacâ: pileo nigro: dorso fuscescenti-brunneo, collo postico aurantiaco dissimili: supracaudalibus vix aurantiacis, pallidioribus: cauda fuscescenti-brunnea.

Hab. in insulis Aruensibus et in Novâ Guinêa meridionali.

The male in this species only differs from that of *A. telescophthalmus* in being rather smaller and in having the black on the throat less extended.

The genus *Arses* now consists of the following species.

1. A. telescophthalmus (Garn.). New Guinea.
2. A. batantae, Sharpe. Batanta: Waigiou.
3. A. aruensis, Sharpe. Aru Islands: S. E. New Guinea.
4. A. insularis (Meyer). Jobi: N. W. New Guinea.
5. A. kaupi, Gould. N. E. Australia.

Leyden Museum, Nov. 6, 1878. R. B. S.